

EMTS. DECESSATA

lunar. In other individuals they entirely disappear, and the sternum some-
times becomes irregularly clouded with brown.
Few species of the genus have been frequently noticed to me for
purchase than this; and it is strange that it should have remained so long
undiscovered. I have possessed many of them living, and have had as good
an opportunity of observing their habits as the change of their condition
would permit. They are voracious like their congeners, tearing in pieces and
greedily devouring meat, fish, small fish, or any other food of the kind. On
being touched, they snap at any object held near them with considerable quick-
ness and force. One of the species which I kept some years since exhibited
a peculiarity in the manner in which it took its food, which does not appear
to belong to the species generally. On a portion of meat being presented to
it in the water, its legs were stretched out directly forward, the talons
being placed outwardly and the feet were thrust forward with a sort of vibratory
motion, during which the head was suddenly darted out to seize the prey.
I have not been able to observe from what part of its anatomy its
were brought, but I have reason to conclude that they are found in various
parts of the United States.

